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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 22 2008

Amendment to the Claims

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) An additional welding method for inducing compressive residual stress near a weld zone formed by an initial welding operation in which a horizontal annex is connected to a vertical member, the additional welding method comprising:

performing an arc welding operation using a material having a low transformation temperature, which terminates its martensite transformation expansion at room temperature at or near the location where welding is complete,

wherein the arc welding operation is performed by moving so that a linear weld line is formed, in turn, along an upper side of the horizontal annex, a side face of the horizontal annex downward linearly along the side face of the horizontal annex, and a lower side of the horizontal annex.

6-11. (Cancelled)